

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00719 191558Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 FEA-02

INT-08 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 191415Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7833

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

USCINCEUR

USNATO 1230

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR SV NO

SUBJ: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON SVALBARD

REF: OSLO 512

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS KJELL ELIASSEN BRIEFED DCM ON FEBRUARY 15 REGARDING RECENT TWO SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR IN OSLO COVERING LEGAL RIGHTS AND AIRPORT ON SVALBARD. BOTH DISCUSSIONS ENDED ON SOMEWHAT INCONCLUSIVE NOTE WITH THE USSR IN EFFECT OBJECTING TO GIVING NORWAY FULL SOVERIGNTY TO APPLY ITS REGULATIONS ON SVALBARD (FULL DETAILS BY AIRGRAM).

2. TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY SIGNED FEBRUARY 14 BETWEEN
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PAGE 02 OSLO 00719 191558Z

THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE

USSR CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY COVERING ADMINISTRATION OF HOTELLNESET AIRPORT. IT WAS AGREED THAT 5-6 SOVIETS MAY BE STATIONED AT THE AIRPORT, BUT MOSCOW REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE IN THE AGREEMENT (ALTHOUGH ELIASSEN FELT IT WOULD ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS IN PRACTICE) THE RIGHT OF NORWAY TO CONTROL THE PASSAGE OF AIRCRAFT OVERFLYING OR LANDING ON SVALBARD.

3. IN THE TALKS TO DEFINE NORWAY'S LEGAL RIGHTS ON SVALBARD, WHICH CONCLUDED FEBRUARY 13, THE SOVIETS INDICATED BOTH BY THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR DELEGATION AND THEIR BEHAVIOR THAT THEY WERE REALLY NOT INTERESTED IN A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THOSE RIGHTS. RATHER, THEY WISHED TO HAVE NORWAY ACCEPT IN PRACTICE THE NEED TO CONSULT THE USSR REGARDING ANY ACTION IT MIGHT TAKE ON SVALBARD--IN EFFECT, ESTABLISHING A CONDOMINIUM THERE. THEY APPEARED TO AGREE TO REQUEST LICENSES FOR RADIOS USED BY SOVIET EXPEDITIONS NOT CONNECTED DIRECTLY WITH ARKTIKUGOL (COAL TRUST ON SVALBARD) AND TO PAY INSURANCE ON SOVIET VEHICLES. THEY OBJECTED TO BUT DID NOT INDICATE THEIR FINAL POSITION ON THE MATTER OF NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ESTABLISHING PROVISIONAL SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR OIL DRILLING AND INCREASING GEOLOGICAL CONCESSION FEES. WHEN THE QUESTION AROSE OF THE RIGHT OF SIGNATORY POWERS TO SEND SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS TO SVALBARD, SOVIETS APPEARED GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT THE ORIGINAL NEGOTIATORS OF THE 1920 TREATY HAD SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT ANY UNRESTRICTED RIGHT, REQUIRING THAT PERMISSION BE OBTAINED FROM THE SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, NORWAY.

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